



Barely discernable in the distance, Soldiers from 2-27th enter the front of the spectacular 16th century structure that houses Humayun's tomb.

New Delhi calls, enfolds Hawaii's Soldiers

After working hard with Yudh Abhyas, 3rd Brigade Soldiers embrace culture

Story and Photos by
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NEW DELHI — Cows wander city streets. Snake charmers entertain tourists for rupees (the local currency), and women can be seen carrying goods in thatched baskets atop their heads. All this is still a part of India, a country that Schofield Barracks Soldiers are experiencing half a world away from the comfortable environs of Hawaii.

January 11th, Soldiers from 3rd Brigade's Charlie Company and attached elements, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, touched down here, into the warm hospitality of their Indian military partners as part of joint, cooperative training exercises with the Indian Army called Yudh Abhyas.

Prior to commencing training exercises, however, Soldiers were welcomed to New Delhi by the Indian Army's 11 Sikh Regiment.

"Sikh is a religion," explained Capt. Abhishek, security officer, 11 Sikh Regiment. "It is common for Indian battalions to be organized by faith. In this compound alone, there are other simi-



Soldiers from 2-27th photograph Delhi's Lotus Temple in the background.

larly organized battalions of different faiths. Here, the 11 Sikh Regiment is a battalion of approximately 800 Soldiers," Abhishek said.

During their two-day stay in New Delhi, Soldiers were housed in the two-story barracks temporarily vacated by Sikh soldiers. They dined on cuisine prepared by Sikh cooks. Meals included, among other delectables, gulab jamun, tandoori roti with butter, vegetable pulao with biryani rice, rajma makhani and butter chicken.

"I like the food," said Spc. Mark Bongiorno, Company C, 2-27. "My wife got me started on Indian food some time ago, so it hasn't been too much of a shock."

Other soldiers agreed.

"I haven't eaten anything that I didn't like," said Sgt. Demetreus Perez, Alpha Co., 2-27.

While in New Delhi, Soldiers also toured a portion of New Delhi's government, commercial and historic districts by bus. Soldiers cruised through New Delhi's embassy row, which is a series of streets lined with embassies from various countries. They saw both India's Presidential Palace and Parliament buildings.

During the tour, Soldiers disembarked their busses to view India Gate, a 42-meter-high arching structure constructed in memory of the more than 90,000 In-

dian soldiers killed during World War I. Soldiers then saw Humayun's Tomb, an architectural phenomenon built in the mid-16th century, which served as a template for the later constructed Taj Mahal. The tour culminated at Lotus Temple, a Baha'i house of worship inspired by, and constructed in the shape of, the lotus.

"Good tour. I really enjoyed it," said Sgt. Ronald Garnett, Alpha Co., 2-27. "I really liked just seeing the differences between our standard of living and theirs, and the downtown area and the different structures," he said.

Pfc. Mathew Todd Garrison, also of Alpha Co., 2-27 agreed. "I liked the tour a lot, and am just really thankful to the Army," he said. "I will probably never get back to India. So, thanks to the Army and the tour, I was able to see it once."

However, the true highlight of the Soldiers' two-day stay with the Sikh Regiment was the reception ceremony. Here, Soldiers quickly learned that the real appeal of India is not in sacred cows or the spectacle of snakes, but in the

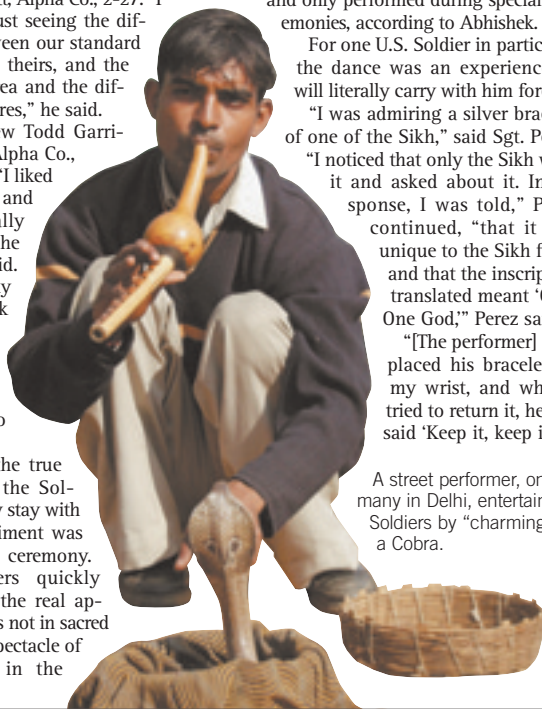
generosity and kindness of the people — in particular their Indian counterparts.

The sunset ceremony was held at the Sikh Army compound sporting field Jan. 12. U.S. and Indian soldiers and officers were entertained by 20 select Sikh soldiers performing the Bhangra while wearing traditional garments and headgear. The Bhangra is a local folk dance exclusive to the Sikh and only performed during special ceremonies, according to Abhishek.

For one U.S. Soldier in particular, the dance was an experience he will literally carry with him forever.

"I was admiring a silver bracelet of one of the Sikh," said Sgt. Perez. "I noticed that only the Sikh wore it and asked about it. In response, I was told," Perez continued, "that it was unique to the Sikh faith, and that the inscription translated meant 'Only One God,'" Perez said.

"[The performer] then placed his bracelet on my wrist, and when I tried to return it, he just said 'Keep it, keep it.'"



A street performer, one of many in Delhi, entertains Soldiers by "charming" a Cobra.



Staff Sgt. Ricky Deshaw takes his final steps to the finish line of the HURT 100-mile trail race which began Saturday and ended Sunday.

Local Soldiers run HURT 100-miler

Story and Photo by
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Staff Writer

MAKIKI — Two 25th Infantry Division Soldiers were among the 94 ultra-runners registered in a 100-mile endurance run that began at 6 a.m., Saturday, at the Honolulu Nature Center here.

Attracting runners throughout the world, the sixth annual Hawaiian Ultra Running Team (HURT) Trail consists of a 20-mile loop that starts at the Hawaii Nature Center and proceeds through a sequence of trails via the Tantalus, Manoa, Nuuanu and reverse.

With an allotted time of 36 hours to complete the race, runners travel an excess of 23,000 feet in the Koolau Mountains on a single-track system.

During the long hours on the trail, runners must overcome the countless obstacles the trail offers — hazards that include fallen cliffs, uprooted rocks and encounters with wild pigs. Adverse terrain, sleep deprivation and sore muscles make the HURT 100-miler a difficult race to finish.

"Throughout the trail, you have the wall of the mountain with a 10-to-300 foot drop off, with no room for two runners to run side by side," said Sgt. Maj. Ben Cavazos of the U.S. Army, Pacific, Inspector General's Office at Fort Shafter, an

ultra-runner who has ran and finished HURT for six consecutive years.

"The majority of the trail consists of roots and rocks, which makes the runner have to watch where they step," said Staff Sgt. Ricky Deshaw of Headquarters, USARPAC, running his second HURT.

Both Cavazos and Deshaw have put countless hours training for the HURT 100-miler, sometimes with runs that last more than 10 hours.

"There are times when we would go out and start at 11 p.m., run throughout the night and continue work in the morning," Deshaw explained.

"Training for the HURT, consists of training for a minimum of six hours," added Cavazos. "When a person is running such a long distance it's not the amount of miles that is ran, but how many hours are put in."

"Every year I do other races and marathons such as the Volcano Marathon, in preparation for the HURT 100-miler," Cavazos continued.

"We have put more miles on our shoes than we drive on our cars — up to 100 miles per week," emphasized Deshaw.

Engaging in a run that lasts throughout the night makes for sleep deprivation, yet another factor that runners must face and defeat. Hence, HURT allows companions to run beside contestants when

it's dark.

"The key is to pace oneself evenly and not get fatigued ... to look forward to the sun coming up the next day," Cavazos said.

"It's difficult, both physically and mentally, because after about 60 miles the body wants to shut down, and that's where a runner has to keep going and overcome it mentally," Deshaw piped in.

Organizers set up aid stations that offered abundant supplies of all types of food to aid runners. The stations allowed runners to not only maintain proper hydration and calorie intake throughout the race, but also to have medical assistance on hand if needed.

On average, only 24 percent of runners ever complete the entire 100 miles of HURT. Both Cavazos and Deshaw explained they like the challenge that HURT offers and embrace the attitude that quitting is not an option.

"The feeling you feel when you touch the finish line is a feeling that nobody can take away," Cavazos said. "The pain from the race goes away, but the glory is forever."

Unofficially, 23 out of 94 registered runners completed the race. Deshaw completed 100 miles in 33 hours and 29 minutes. Cavazos completed his sixth consecutive race in 33:59.